

- 924
96. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 35 inches.
97. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 10 inches.
98. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 5 inches.
99. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein one of the first and second upturned runner ends contacts the deck.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-48 and 52-99 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-14, 16-45, and 48 are amended, claims 49-51 are canceled, and new claims 52-99 are added. No new matter has been added.

In response to the Examiner's telephone request on November 30, 2001, Applicants have enclosed a copy of all previously submitted Information Disclosure Statements and corresponding 1449 forms (without references) for this application, i.e., Information Disclosure Statements mailed March 7, 2001, October 29, 2001, and October 31, 2001. Should the Examiner require a copy of any of the previously cited references, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below. A supplemental Information Disclosure Statement has also been filed herewith.

Election of Species

In the Restriction Requirement dated December 4, 2001, the Examiner has set forth a requirement for an election of species, one each from Groups I, II and III. Group I includes Species a, b, and c. Group II includes Species a (Fig. 1) and b (Fig. 4). Group III includes Species a (Fig. 2) and b (Fig. 6).

Applicants hereby elect Species Ia, Species IIb, and Species IIIb with traverse. Claims 1-48 and newly submitted claims 53-63, 65-76, and 78-99 correspond to Species Ia. Claims 1-48 and newly submitted claims 52-99 correspond to Species IIb. Claims 1-48 and newly submitted claims 52-99 correspond to Species IIIb.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-48, 53-63, 65-76, and 78-99 is generic with respect to Species I. Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1, 2, 4, 6-24, 26, 28-48, 52-79, and 81-99 is generic with respect to Species II. Regarding Species III, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-46, 48 and 52-99 is generic. Applicants submit that searching each of the species would not place an undue burden on the Examiner and therefore elect the above species with traverse.

Having made the foregoing election, Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the subject matter of any non-elected claims. Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants hereby request consideration of claims to one or more of the additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Amendment

The paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 6 of the specification has been amended to correct an obvious error in the original specification. The reference designation "11" was assigned both to "foam" and to "holes". With this amendment, the reference designation "14" has been assigned to "foam". Corresponding corrections to Figures 1 and 3 are enclosed with the correction to reference designation "14" shown in red ink. Their entry is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

CONCLUSION

A check in the amount of \$810.00 is enclosed to cover the claims fee. If the fee is insufficient, the balance may be charged to the account of the undersigned, Deposit Account No. 23/2825. If this response is not considered timely filed, and if a request for extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 21 of page 6 as shown.

Figures 1-5 show an illustrative embodiment that incorporates many aspects of the invention. As can be seen in Figure 1, this illustrative embodiment includes a deck 1 that is attached to a lower sliding portion, or runner 3, by spacers 2. The deck 1 may be covered, at least partially, by a foam [11] 14 or other grip enhancing material. The foam [11] 14 may be a relatively soft closed cell foam or other material that helps keep a rider's feet in place on the deck 1. The foam [11] 14 may also include other features, such as a sticky adhesive, to help keep the rider's feet on the deck 1. Although in this illustrative embodiment the snowdeck does not include bindings or any other suitable device to physically attach one or more of the rider's feet to the deck 1, bindings, straps or other devices may be used to securely fasten the rider's feet. The snowdeck may also include a leash, tether, rigid handle (similar to that on a scooter) (not shown) attached to the deck 1 or other portion of the snowdeck. The rider may hold the leash, handle or other device to help maintain balance on the snowdeck or to pull the snowdeck while walking. Alternately, the deck 1 may not include any additional features to help keep a rider's feet on the deck 1, i.e., no foam [11] 14, bindings, handle, leash, skid-resistant material, sticky adhesive, etc.

MARKED-UP CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:
 - a runner having first and second upturned ends and an intermediate [a middle] portion between the upturned ends, the runner having an overall length of at most 45 inches;
 - a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having a front to back direction and an upper surface that supports a rider [and a longitudinal axis]; and
 - a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that [a portion of the deck near the deck attachment position is not free to pivot about the longitudinal axis relative to a portion of the runner at the runner attachment position] the deck is restrained from pivoting relative to the runner about an axis running in the front to back direction;wherein the runner and the deck are constructed and arranged to allow riding with both the first upturned end of the runner forward and the second upturned end of the runner forward.
2. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to provide equivalent riding performance with the first runner end forward and the second runner end forward.
3. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the upper surface of the deck includes a portion that is concave in an edge-to-edge direction.
4. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the deck includes upturned longitudinal ends.
5. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the deck includes uplifted lateral edges that are positioned vertically farther away from the runner than a central portion of the deck.

6. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein an angle formed between a plane of a bottom surface of the runner and a line extending between a lower edge of the runner and a lateral edge of the deck is between 30 and 70 degrees.
7. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the upper surface of the deck is arranged for a gripping surface.
8. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], further comprising a foam material secured to at least one portion of the upper surface of the deck.
9. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], comprising first and second spacers, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the first upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third [one-half] of the overall length, and the second spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the second upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third [one-half] of the overall length.
10. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned nearer the first upturned end of the runner and a second spacer is positioned nearer a second upturned end of the runner, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first and second spacers are separated longitudinally by a distance equal to approximately zero to three-fifths the overall length of the runner.
11. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], comprising two spacers, wherein the two spacers are longitudinally separated from each other and attach the runner and the deck together, and a portion of the runner between the spacers is free to flex relative to the deck.
12. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.

13. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein at least one of the first and second upturned ends of the runner extends beyond a corresponding end of the deck.
14. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the runner is longer than the deck and the first and second upturned ends of the runner extend beyond corresponding ends of the deck.
15. The device of claim 14, wherein the first and second upturned ends are free to move relative to the deck.
16. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the runner has a width that is approximately 0.4 to 0.8 times a width of the deck, and the deck has a width between 7 and 15 inches.
17. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1 to 8.375 inches.
18. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the runner has a sidecut.
19. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], comprising two spacers that are longitudinally displaced and have a same height, wherein the runner and the deck are secured together by the two longitudinally displaced spacers.
20. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein the runner is equally spaced vertically from the deck along the intermediate [middle] portion of the runner.
21. (Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow one of [movement of the deck and runner to decrease in a distance between a lower surface of the runner near the runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near the deck attachment position,] relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction [about

an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal axis,] and relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

22. (Amended) The device of claim 21 [1], wherein at least one of the deck and the runner are directly secured to the spacer.

23. (Amended) A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:

a runner having first and second upturned ends [and a middle], an intermediate portion between the upturned ends, and an overall length;

a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having a front to back direction, an upper surface that supports a rider, and an overall length; and

a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that the deck is restrained from pivoting relative to the runner about an axis running in the front to back direction;

wherein the runner and the deck are constructed and arranged to allow riding with both the first upturned end of the runner forward and the second upturned end of the runner forward, and wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 13 inches.

[two spacers secured to the runner at longitudinally displaced runner attachment positions and secured to the deck at longitudinally displaced deck attachment positions so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that a portion of the deck near a deck attachment position corresponding to a first spacer is not free to pivot about a longitudinal axis relative to a portion of the runner at a runner attachment position corresponding to the first spacer;

wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.]

24. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to provide equivalent riding performance with the first runner end forward and the second runner end forward.

25. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the upper surface of the deck includes a portion that is concave in an edge-to-edge direction.

26. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the deck includes upturned longitudinal ends.

27. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the deck includes uplifted lateral edges that are positioned vertically farther away from the runner than a central portion of the deck.

28. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein an angle formed between a plane of a bottom surface of the runner and a line extending between a lower edge of the runner and a lateral edge of the deck is between 30 and 70 degrees.

29. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the upper surface of the deck is arranged for a gripping surface.

30. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], further comprising a foam material secured to at least one portion of the upper surface of the deck.

31. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], comprising first and second spacers, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the first upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third [one-half] of the overall length of the runner, and the second spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the second upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third [one-half] of the overall length of the runner.

32. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned nearer the first upturned end of the runner and a second spacer is positioned nearer a second upturned end of the runner, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first and second spacers are separated longitudinally by a distance equal to approximately zero to three-fifths the overall length of the runner.

33. (Amended) The device of claim 32 [23], wherein a portion of the runner between the spacers is free to flex relative to the deck.

34. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.

35. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein at least one of the first and second upturned ends of the runner extends beyond a corresponding end of the deck.

36. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the runner is longer than the deck and the first and second upturned ends of the runner extend beyond corresponding ends of the deck.

37. The device of claim 36, wherein the first and second upturned ends are free to move relative to the deck.

38. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the runner has a width that is approximately 0.4 to 0.8 times a width of the deck, and the deck has a width of approximately 7 and 15 inches.

39. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1 to 8.375 inches.

40. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the runner has a sidecut.

41. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein a portion of the deck is wider than a widest portion of the runner [two spacers have a same height].

42. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein the runner is equally spaced vertically from the deck along the intermediate [middle] portion of the runner.

43. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein one of the runner and the deck has a length of between approximately 25 and 45 [72] inches.

44. (Amended) The device of claim 23, wherein [at least one of] the spacer [spacers] is constructed and arranged to allow one of [movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower surface of the runner near a runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near a deck attachment position,] relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction [about an axis perpendicular to a longitudinal axis,] and relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

45. (Amended) The device of claim 44 [23], wherein at least one of the deck and the runner are directly secured to the spacer [spacers].

46. A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:

a runner having at least one upturned end and a middle portion;

a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having an upper surface that supports a rider;

and

a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner;

wherein one or both of the runner and the deck is arranged and mounted to the spacer to allow longitudinal movement of either the runner or the deck relative to the other.

47. The device of claim 46, wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to allow adjustment of the position of the spacer relative to the runner or the deck.

48. (Amended) The device of claim 46, wherein the at least one upturned end contacts the deck. [A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:

a runner having at least one upturned end, a middle portion and a lower surface;

a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having an upper surface that supports a rider;

and

a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner;

wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1.75 to 4 inches.]

49. canceled

50. canceled

51. canceled

52. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower surface of the runner near the runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near the deck attachment position.

53. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction.

54. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

55. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck is longer than the runner.
56. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck is constructed and arranged to support both feet of a rider.
57. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the deck has no foot bindings to secure a rider's feet to the deck.
58. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 40 inches.
59. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 35 inches.
60. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 10 inches.
61. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 5 inches.
62. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein the ratio of the overall deck length to the overall runner length is at least 0.75.
63. (New) The device of claim 21, wherein one of the first and second upturned runner ends contacts the deck.
64. (New) The device of claim 23, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower

surface of the runner near a runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near a deck attachment position.

65. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction.

66. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

67. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck is longer than the runner.

68. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck is constructed and arranged to support both feet of a rider.

69. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the deck has no foot bindings to secure a rider's feet to the deck.

70. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 40 inches.

71. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 35 inches.

72. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 10 inches.

73. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 5 inches.

74. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein the ratio of the overall deck length to the overall runner length is at least 0.75.

75. (New) The device of claim 44, wherein one of the first and second upturned runner ends contacts the deck.

76. (New) A sliding device for supporting a rider when sliding on a surface, comprising:
a runner having first and second upturned ends, an intermediate portion between the upturned ends, and an overall length;

a deck elevated from the runner, the deck having a front to back direction, an upper surface that supports a rider, and an overall length; and

a spacer secured to the runner at a runner attachment position and secured to the deck at a deck attachment position so that forces applied by a rider on the deck are transmitted to the runner, and so that the deck is restrained from pivoting relative to the runner about an axis running in the front to back direction;

wherein the runner and the deck are constructed and arranged to allow riding with both the first upturned end of the runner forward and the second upturned end of the runner forward, and wherein the ratio of the overall deck length to the overall runner length is at least 0.75.

77. (New) The device of claim 76, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow movement of the deck and runner toward each other to decrease a distance between a lower surface of the runner near the runner attachment position and the upper surface of the deck near the deck attachment position.

78. (New) The device of claim 76, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow one of relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction, and relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.

79. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner and deck are constructed and arranged to provide equivalent riding performance with the first runner end forward and the second runner end forward.

80. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the upper surface of the deck includes a portion that is concave in an edge-to-edge direction.

81. (New) The device of claim 78, further comprising a foam material secured to at least one portion of the upper surface of the deck.

82. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the first upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length of the runner, and the second spacer is positioned longitudinally inward from the second upturned end of the runner at a distance equal to approximately one-fifth to one-third of the overall length of the runner.

83. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising first and second spacers, wherein the first spacer is positioned nearer the first upturned end of the runner and a second spacer is positioned nearer a second upturned end of the runner, wherein the runner has an overall length and the first and second spacers are separated longitudinally by a distance equal to approximately zero to three-fifths the overall length of the runner.

84. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising two spacers, wherein the two spacers are longitudinally separated from each other and attach the runner and the deck together, and a portion of the runner between the spacers is free to flex relative to the deck.

85. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the first and second upturned ends of the runner are free to move relative to the deck.

86. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has a width that is approximately 0.4 to 0.8 times a width of the deck, and the deck has a width between 7 and 15 inches.
87. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein a minimum spacing between the upper surface of the deck and a lower surface of the runner is approximately 1 to 8.375 inches.
88. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has a sidecut.
89. (New) The device of claim 78, comprising two spacers that are longitudinally displaced and have a same height, wherein the runner and the deck are secured together by the two longitudinally displaced spacers.
90. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative rotation of the deck and runner in the front to back direction.
91. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the spacer is constructed and arranged to allow relative longitudinal movement of the deck and runner.
92. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the deck is longer than the runner.
93. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the deck is constructed and arranged to support both feet of a rider.
94. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the deck has no foot bindings to secure a rider's feet to the deck.
95. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 40 inches.

96. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the runner has an overall length of at most 35 inches.

97. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 10 inches.

98. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein the overall runner length and the overall deck length differ by at most 5 inches.

99. (New) The device of claim 78, wherein one of the first and second upturned runner ends contacts the deck.